

NEW Directions

April 19, 2007

I&IT on the move

On April 2, 2007, the Health Services Cluster (HSC) welcomed designated I&IT staff from three additional ministry program areas into the cluster. This change is part of Phase Three of the Cluster Transition Initiative that began in September 2006.

HSC provides I&IT services to the both the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion, and is one of the eight clusters that make up the government's I&IT organization.

The ministry's Health Data Decision Support Unit (HDDSU) of the Health System Strategy Division is one of the latest groups to join the cluster. The unit's role will remain unchanged, continuing to deliver on its mandate to acquire, compile and depersonalize health services and population data that spans the continuum of care. The work of the HDDSU supports program decisions, health system planning, chronic disease surveillance and health/population research.

"Our work with client communities to identify data resources that can inform their analytical and planning work will continue," said HDDSU manager Doug Ramsay.

HDDSU serves more than 420 individual users, representing over 150 branches and organizations. Last year it provided answers to 16,000 health service and population questions.

Frankie Li Yan, formerly of Capital Planning and Strategies Branch of the Health System Investment and Funding Division, also transitioned to the cluster as part of this phase. "My work will continue with the capital-related branches, helping them to develop and implement a database application that tracks and reports on the ministry's health capital projects," Li Yan said.

Julian Young, formerly of the Physician Accountability and Systems Office, Health System Accountability and Performance Division, has also been welcomed into the cluster. "This move positions us to better support portfolio management within the ministry through improved IT relationship management and project integration," Young said.

The cluster's reorganization is designed to effectively support the ministry throughout the transition period and beyond, explained Chris Renaud, Chief Information Officer of the Health Services Cluster. "It is critical that these two initiatives roll out in close alignment," Renaud said.

The ministry's role as stewards will result in new business processes that require more flexible and responsive I&IT capabilities, he explained. "The HSC reorganization will support these requirements through higher-quality, cost-effective and more focused information management services across all divisions," Renaud said.



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